

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (New): An isolated polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 13 (New): An isolated polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 14 (New): A purified chicken type II collagen which is encoded by the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 12.

Claim 15 (New): A recombinant expression vector comprising the isolated polynucleotide of claim 12 or 13.

Claim 16 (New): A host cell transformed with the recombinant expression vector of claim 15.

Claim 17 (New): A method for producing a chicken type II collagen, comprising transforming a suitable host cell by the recombinant expression vector of claim 16; culturing the host cell in suitable culture medium and under appropriate culture conditions; and

separating and purifying the chicken type II collagen from the culture medium, the cells, or the medium and the cells.

Claim 18 (New): A composition comprising the separated and purified chicken type II collagen prepared by the method of claim 17, and a pharmaceutically-accepted vehicle.

Claim 19 (New): A food or beverage composition, wherein the food or beverage composition, in addition to comprising the food or beverage, further comprises a chicken type II collagen prepared according to the method of claim 17.

Claim 20 (New): An isolated polypeptide 95% homologous to SEQ ID NO: 3.

Claim 21 (New): An isolated polynucleotide coding for the protein of SEQ ID NO: 2.